

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-08
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R 271835Z JAN 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6290
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
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UNCLAS SAN JOE 0367

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CS, NU, PFOR, SHUM
SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN/NICARAGUAN MEETING ON BORDER, FISHING PROBLEMS

REF: 76 SAN JOSE 5020; (B) 76 SAN JOSE 5292 (C) 76 MANAGUA 5205

1. SUMMARY: COSTA RICAN AND NICARAGUAN CABINET MINISTERS HAVE AGREED TO PROPOSALS TO DELIMIT LAND AND SEA BORDERS. RESPONDING TO PRESS INQUIRIES, NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL DENIED ALLEGATIONS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED IN NICARAGUA AND INDICATED THAT JAILED COSTA RICAN STUDENT LIANA BENAVIDES WOULD SHORTLY BE FREED. END SUMMARY.

2. COSTA RICAN AND NICARAGUAN CABINET MINISTERS HELD A SCHEDULED MEETING JANUARY 25 IN LIBERIA, COSTA RICA TO DISCUSS FURTHER BILATERAL PROBLEMS COVERED IN THEIR OCTOBER, 1976 MEETING IN NICARAGUA. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WILBURG JIMENEZ, MINISTER OF SECURITY MARIO CHARPENTIDL, MINISTER OF ECONOMY JORGE UNCLASSIFIED

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SANCHEZ, AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER RODOLFO QUIROS LED THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATION. FOREIGN MINISTER ALEJANDRO MONTIEL, DEFENSE MINISTER HEBERTO SANCHEZ AND MINISTER OF ECONOMY JUAN JOSE MARTINEZ REPRESENTED NICARAGUA.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, IT WAS AGREED TO:

-- ACCEPT A JOINT REPORT PREPARED BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTES (IGN) OF BOTH NATIONS CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CLOSE SPACING OF CONCRETE MARKERS ALONG THEIR MUTUAL LAND BORDER IN 1977.

-- CONTINUE JOINT IGN STUDY ON DELINEATING MARITIME FRONTIERS. A REPORT IS TO BE PREPARED AND DELIVERED TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS BY MARCH 31, 1977.

-- ESTABLISH A JOINT FISHERIES ZONE IN THE BORDER AREA WHILE MARITIME BOUNDARIES ARE NOT DEFINITE. FURTHER TALKS WILL BE HELD ON THIS MATTER AND A PROPOSAL PRESENTED TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS BY FEBRUARY 28, 1977.

-- REPATRIATE EACH OTHER FISHING BOATS SEIZED FOR ILLEGALLY FISHING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS.

4. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL WAS QUESTIONED BY THE PRESS ABOUT THE LETTER SENT BY VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN PERSONALITIES TO PRESIDENT CARTER ALLEGING THAT NICARAGUA VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRESIDENT SOMOZA DIVERTS INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE INTO HIS OWN COFFERS. MONTIEL DENIED BOTH CHARGES. REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, HE DECLARED THAT QUOTE IN NICARAGUA HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED AND NO ABUSES OR RESTRICTIONS ON THEM EXIST. ONLY WHEN CRIMINAL ACTS ARE COMMITTED, SUCH AS THE ATTACK ON ME TWO YEARS AGO NECESSITATING THAT MEASURE BE TAKEN, IS THE GOVERNMENT OBLIGED TO SUSPEND GUARANTEES END QUOTE.

5. MONTIEL ALSO INDICATED THAT COSTA RICAN STUDENT LIANA UNCLASSIFIED

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BENAVIDES, JAILED IN NICARAGUA FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH SANDINISTA GUERRILLAS, WILL SHORTLY BE FREED. HE OBSERVED THAT HER TRIAL SHOULD BE CONCLUDED WITHIN A WEEK AND SENTENCING BY THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW. HE CLARED QUOTE I THINK IT (HER SENTENCE) WILL NOT BE LONG AND WITH THE TIME SHE HAS ALREADY SPENT IN PRISON IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SHE WILL HAVE ALREADY COMPLIED WITH HER SENTENCE END QUOTE.

6. COMMENT: WITH PROGRESS ON THE BORDER AND FISHING PROBLEMS, AND EVENTUAL RELEASE OF BENAVIDES, COSTA RICA/NICARAGUA RELATIONS WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL AS CONTRASTED TO LAST OCTOBER'S FLURRIES OVER THESE ISSUES. KILDAY

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